

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 remain pending after amendment.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended to change the range "30 to 330 degrees" to "30 to 252 degrees." Support for this amendment resides at page 8, line 32 of the specification. New claim 6 is also added, support for which resides at Table 1, Example 2 of the specification. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(a)

Claims 1-2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by JP '598.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner takes the position that JP '598 "teaches the claimed apparatus and process as evidenced by the taught embodiments shown in figs. 1-3." This rejection respectfully is traversed.

The '598 reference is directed to a mold for a golf ball formed from an upper mold portion 1 and a lower mold portion 3. A cavity surface 5 of the mold portions is provided with multiple projections 7 to form dimples on the surface of the molded golf ball. The claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference.

Attached sheet A corresponds to Figure 5 of the present specification. Figure 5 depicts a golf ball obtained by use of a golf ball mold of Example 1 of the present specification. As shown at Table 1 of the specification, $\Sigma \phi$ of Example 1 is 105.4 degrees.

Attached sheet B corresponds to Fig. 8 of the present specification. Fig. 8 depicts a golf ball which is obtained by using a mold of Example 2 of the specification. As shown at Table 1 of the specification, $\Sigma \phi$ of Example 2 is 194.2 degrees.

Attached sheet C corresponds to Fig. 9 of the present specification. Fig. 9 depicts a golf ball which is obtained by use of a mold of Example 3 of the specification. As shown at Table 1 of the specification, $\Sigma \phi$ of Example 3 is 258.5 degrees.

Attached sheet D corresponds to Fig. 5 of the cited JP '598.

The blackened dimples on the attached sheets A-D adjoin a horizontal portion. As is clear from a comparison between the attached sheets C and D, a mold of JP '598 is similar to the mold of Example 3. JP '598 is silent regarding a value of $\Sigma \phi$. However, a comparison between sheets C and D clearly demonstrates that the value of $\Sigma \phi$ is at least 258.5 degrees.

Applicants' specification states at page 8, lines 26-34 that the total value of $\Sigma \phi$ is preferably "252 degrees or less". The

flight distance of Example 2 whose $\Sigma \phi$ is 194.2 degrees is greater than the flight distance of Example 3 whose $\Sigma \phi$ is 258.5 degrees.

In an attempt to more clearly define over the teachings of the cited JP '598 reference, claims 1 and 5 are amended to state that the total value of $\Sigma \phi$ of circumferential central angles ϕ of the horizontal planes is "30 degrees to 252 degrees".

The cited reference thus fails to anticipate the claimed invention. The rejection should accordingly be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '598. This rejection respectfully is traversed.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner takes the position that the recited limitations of claims 3 and 4 "would have been obviously and readily determined through routine experimentation by one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made."

However, given the fact that the invention of claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by the cited JP '598 reference, the invention of claims 3 and 4 is similarly neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference.

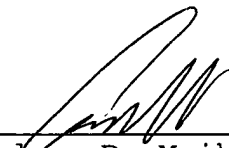
In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same earnestly is solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868

ADM/JWH/sh

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachments: Sheets A-D